



# your *Alaska by Cruise* fact sheet

**GETTING THERE:** Most cruise passengers fly into Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (ANC) or Vancouver International Airport (YVR).

Depending on when you arrive, you may have the opportunity to explore the city of Anchorage or Vancouver on your own before boarding your cruise ship.

**LANGUAGE:** English, the primary language of Alaska's population, will be the main language on your cruise.

**CLIMATE:** During the day in summer, highs range from 60°F - 80°F with refreshingly cool lows dropping into the 40s - 50s at night. May and September are considered the low season, and September usually presents a 50% chance of rain on any given day. The Northern Lights are best seen August 20th through April 20th - an ideal time for a Winter Aurora Vacation.

If you're looking for a unique Alaskan visit with fewer tourists, October is a great time. November is a challenging time of increasing darkness and it's cold (20s and 30s), but there isn't enough snow for a lot of outdoor sports.

January starts out pretty bleak but is a great time for a winter visit since towns like to throw "cabin fever reliever" festivals and there's finally enough snow for winter sports. March is the top time to visit Alaska as the days grow longer and warmer, and the Iditarod sled dog race starts the first Saturday.

April is probably the hardest month to visit due to melted snow and limited activities. However, April is a nice time to see the spring Gray Whale migrations.

**MONEY/CURRENCY (CREDIT CARDS, DEBIT CARDS, TIPPING, ATMS):** On your Alaskan cruise, American cash is the main currency used and accepted. It is advised to bring enough cash for dining, shopping, spa services, and such to save yourself the hassle of finding and using an ATM.

Keep in mind any excursions you plan to take and bring cash for tipping the tour guides. A good rule is to tip 10% - 20% of the tour cost or tip based on the length of the tour. For instance, \$5 - \$10 for a half-day excursion or \$10 - \$20 for a full-day. Plan to spend \$50 - \$100USD per day, plus an additional \$20 per day for tipping crew members.

Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover are generally accepted, and it is a good idea to notify each of your credit card companies of your intended travel dates and locations to avoid holds and/or fraud alerts. Being aware of the above should make for smooth sailing.

**ELECTRICITY:** Staterooms are equipped with standard 110 AC and 220 AC outlets near the desk, and you may want to bring converters and/or adapters for your post-cruise hotel stay.





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## 5 FAST FACTS

1. Alaska is home to a whopping 3 million lakes, including Lake Iliamna, which ranks as the eighth-largest lake by area in the United States.
2. Alaska is also home to 17 of the United States' 20 highest mountain peaks. Denali, also known as "The Great One," is the highest, measuring an astounding 20,320 feet above sea level.
3. Glaciers cover 5% of the state of Alaska, and there are approximately 100,000 of them.
4. Visitors have a chance to see the Northern Lights 243 days per year in Fairbanks, Alaska.
5. Juneau, the capital, covers 3,108 square miles and is the only US capital city that is accessibly only by boat or plane.

## 5 ITEMS TO PACK

1. For the best pictures, pack a telephoto camera with extra memory cards.
2. Remember to bring sunglasses – so you don't have to squint when looking at the incredibly bright scenery.
3. Pack lightweight t-shirts, thin sweaters, waterproof jackets, scarves, and warm hats. Think layers to put on and pull off easily as you go indoors and outdoors.
4. Sturdy, all-weather shoes or boots for glacier-walking, trekking through mud, and outdoor sports excursions are a must for your Alaskan cruise.
5. A daypack for carrying personal/souvenir items on and off board will come in handy on your trip; be sure to bring one!

## TOURS/EXCURSION IDEAS

1. Dog sledding, Alaska's favorite pastime, is an unforgettable experience. One of the most incredible ways to participate is by having the sled dogs race you across a glacier after a helicopter ride over Juneau Icefield.
2. Tour Mendenhall Glacier, which features a river of ice with crazy crevasses and the most beautiful, azure blue coloring. It is family-friendly and accessible. You can also explore the surrounding trails to look for salmon and wildlife.
3. Go King Crab-catching in Ketchikan.
4. Pan for gold in Skagway – just like during the Klondike Gold Rush!
5. Try humpback whale-watching. Did you know that they can grow up to 52 feet, which is longer than a Greyhound bus?

